REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the present Application. Claims 1-9 have been amended. Support of the amendment of Claims 1-9 can be found at least on page 15, lines 1-17 and Figs. 6-8 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Agraharam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,482, hereinafter Agraharam).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In regard to the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as outlined in Paragraph 3 of the Official Action, Applicant has amended the claims to correct the cosmetic matters of form and language inconsistencies identified in the Official Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Agraharam. The Official Action states Agraharam discloses the invention as recited in the Applicant's claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a service providing apparatus including:

"communication means for transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition means simultaneously to those of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server."

By way of background, chat systems are known for use with networks such as the Internet. In chat systems, text data transmitted from a certain client accessing a server are received by the server once and then transmitted to other clients who access the same server. However, such chat systems only permit a plurality of users to share text, and thus provide poorer presence than where a plurality of users can gather and communicate in real space.[1]

Due in part to the above deficiency in the art, the present invention is provided. With this object in mind, a brief comparison of the claimed invention , in view of the cited references, is believed to be in order.

Agraharam, describes a client-server architecture in which a principal user will access a server, request delivery of information, request a temporal scheme for delivery (i.e. simultaneous), provide the identification information of the other users who should receive the information, and then the server will retrieve the information to be delivered, establish a connection with each of the other users, and finally deliver the information.

As shown more specifically in FIG 2,[2] A client (210) places a call to a server (250), selects information on the server (250) to be delivered, inputs the telephone number of the other users (270 or 280) who should receive the information, the server (250) then connects to the other users (270 or 280), and finally delivers the selected information to the other users (270 or 280).[3] Agraharam does not disclose or suggest the use of a shared server.

[1] Applicant's specification, page 1, line 20 to page 2, line 3.
[2] Agraharam at FIG. 2.
[3] Agraharam at column 5, lines 37-55.

Conversely, Applicant's invention provides a shared server in which a user accesses the shared server, requests information, and then that information is delivered to each user who accessed the shared server.[4]

In an exemplary embodiment of the Applicant's invention, at least two users access a shared server. One of the users selects an item such as a song from a database on the shared server. The selected song is then communicated to all users who accessed to the shared server providing the same group identifier. As shown Figures 1 and 5, each client computer (3-1 to 3-3) is connected to the shared server, and is capable of making a request that would be transmitted to each of the client computers (3-1 to 3-3). One advantage, as demonstrated by this non-limiting example, is that the client computer making the request does not have to instruct the shared server to deliver the data to the other client computers. Agraharam does not disclose or suggest the Applicant's invention as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Likewise, independent claims 4-6 and 8-9 recite substantially the same limitations discussed above with reference to Claim 1 and, in addition to dependent Claims 2-3 and 7 are allowable based at least on their independent and/or dependent recitation of the above identified limitation.

[4] Applicant's specification at least at page 13, line 18 to page 14, line 11.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-9, is definite, patentably distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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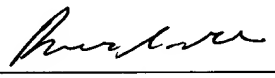

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